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Amend. B  
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Patents  
VIB-08  
04/26/02

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicants : Neirynck et al.  
Application No. : 09/498,046 Confirmation No.: 8244  
Filed : February 4, 2000  
Title : IMMUNOPROTECTIVE INFLUENZA ANTIGEN AND ITS USE IN VACCINATION  
Group Art Unit : 1648  
Examiner : Shanon A. Foley  
New York, New York  
April 18, 2002

Commissioner for Patents  
Washington, DC 20231

**RESPONSE TO DECEMBER 18, 2001 OFFICE ACTION**

This responds to the December 18, 2001 Office Action. Kindly amend the application as follows.

In the Claims:

✓  
Please cancel claim 33 without prejudice.

Please amend claims 26-28, 31, 32, 38-40 and 46 as indicated below.

26. (Amended) An influenza antigen comprising a fusion product, said fusion product comprising
- (i) an extracellular part of an M2 membrane protein of a human influenza A virus, or of a similar integral membrane protein of a human influenza B or C virus, and
  - (ii) a presenting carrier,

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